GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3986
ANSWERED ON:17.05.2006
BILATERAL TIES WITH BANGLADESH
Chakraborty Shri Ajay;Rao Shri Sambasiva Rayapati

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Bangladesh Prime Minister visited India in the month of March, 2006;

(b) If so, the main issues discussed between both the countries;

(c) Whether any agreements were signed on the occasion;

(d) If so, the details thereof;

(e) Whether issues viz., cross-border terrorism, fire exchanges along borders, restoration of rail traffic etc. also came up during talks; and

(f) If so, the details and outcome thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMED)

a & b) Yes Sir. During the visit, both countries discussed the entire gamut of bilateral relations as well as regional and international issues of mutual interest. Both the leaders reaffirmed their commitment to work closely together to find mutually satisfactory solutions to all issues including security, trade and sharing of river water.

c & d) Two Agreements pertaining to
(i) the Revised Trade agreement and
(ii) the Agreement for Mutual Cooperation for Preventing Illicit Trafficking in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances and Related Matters were signed. While the revised trade agreement is expected to provide a framework for expansion of bilateral trade, the other agreement signals the joint determination of the two Governments to combat drug trafficking.

e & f) The issues of cross-border terrorism, fire exchanges along border and restoration of rail traffic came up during talks. It was agreed that meetings of the bilateral institutional mechanisms such as the Joint Economic Commission, the Joint Boundary Working Groups, the Joint Rivers Commission and the Home Secretary-level talks would be held more frequently to ensure movement in a positive direction and their outcome monitored by the political leadership on a continuous basis.